

## Government Accountability Office

## § 7.6

take an active part in political management and political campaigns in connection with partisan elections for local offices of the municipality or political subdivision, subject to the following limitations:

(1) Participation in politics shall be as an independent candidate or on behalf of, or in opposition to, an independent candidate.

(2) Candidacy for, and service in, an elective office shall not result in neglect of or interference with the performance of the duties of the employee or create a conflict, or apparent conflict, of interests.

[53 FR 26421, July 13, 1988]

### **§ 7.4 Employment limitations, foreign gifts and decorations, and misconduct.**

The provisions of subchapters II, IV, and V of chapter 73 of title 5, United States Code and implementing regulations thereunder continue to apply to this office.

### **§ 7.5 Adverse actions: Suspensions for 14 days or less.**

(a) *Policy.* A GAO employee may be suspended for 14 days or less for such cause as will promote the efficiency of GAO (including discourteous conduct to the public confirmed by an immediate supervisor's report of four such instances within any 1-year period or any other pattern of discourteous conduct). Suspension means placing an employee, for disciplinary reasons, temporarily in a status without duties and pay.

(b) *Employee entitlement.* An employee against whom a suspension for 14 days or less is proposed is entitled to—

(1) An advance written notice stating the specific reasons for the proposed action;

(2) A reasonable time to answer orally and in writing and to furnish affidavits and other documentary evidence in support of the answer;

(3) Be represented by an attorney or other representative; and

(4) A written decision and the specific reasons therefore at the earliest practicable date.

(c) *Documentation.* Copies of the notice of proposed action, the answer of the employee if written, a summary

thereof if made orally, the notice of decision and reasons therefor, and any order effecting the suspension, together with any supporting material, shall be maintained by Personnel and shall be furnished to the employee affected upon the employee's request.

(d) *Nonapplicability.* This section is not applicable to—(1) An employee who is serving a trial period under an initial appointment in GAO or who has not completed 1 year of current continuous employment in the same or similar positions in GAO under other than a temporary appointment limited to 1 year or less.

(2) A suspension in the interest of national security.

### **§ 7.6 Adverse actions: Removal, suspension for more than 14 days, reduced in grade, reduced in pay or furloughed for 30 days or less.**

(a) *Policy.* A GAO employee may be removed, suspended for more than 14 days, reduction in grade or pay, or furlough for 30 days or less for such cause as will promote the efficiency of GAO. Furloughed means placing an employee in a temporary status without duties and pay because of lack of work or funds or other nondisciplinary reasons.

(b) *Employee entitlement.* An employee against whom an action is proposed under this section is entitled to—

(1) At least 30 days' advance written notice, unless there is reasonable cause to believe the employee has committed a crime for which a sentence of imprisonment may be imposed, stating the specific reasons for the proposed action,

(2) A reasonable time to answer orally and in writing and to furnish affidavits and other documents in support of the answer.

(3) Be represented by an attorney or other representative; and

(4) A written decision and the specific reasons therefor at the earliest practicable date.

(c) *Appeals.* After administrative remedies have been exhausted, an employee against whom an action is taken under this section is entitled to appeal to the GAO Personnel Appeals Board.

(d) *Documentation.* Copies of the notice of proposed action, the answer of

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the employee if written, a summary thereof when made orally, the notice of decision and reasons therefor, and any order affecting an action covered by this section, together with any supporting material, shall be maintained by Personnel and shall be furnished to the GAO Personnel Appeals Board upon its request and to the employee affected upon the employee's request.

(e) *Nonapplicability.* This section does not apply to—

(1) Employees who are serving a trial period under an initial appointment or who has not completed 1 year of current continuous employment under other than a temporary appointment limited to 1 year or less.

(2) A suspension or removal of an employee in the interests of national security.

(3) A reduction in force.

(4) The reduction in grade of a supervisor or manager who has not completed the probationary period.

(5) A reduction in grade or removal for unacceptable performance under part 4.

(6) An action ordered by the GAO Personnel Appeals Board.

## § 7.7 Other appeals and grievances.

The personnel system shall provide procedures for the processing of complaints and grievances which are not otherwise provided for.

## § 7.8 Services to employees.

The provisions of chapter 79 of title 5, United States Code, and the Office of Personnel Management implementing regulations apply to Government Accountability Office employees.

## PART 8—INSURANCE AND ANNUITIES

AUTHORITY: 31 U.S.C. 732.

## § 8.1 Applicable law and regulations.

The provisions of subpart G, title 5, United States Code and implementing regulations for the Executive Branch covering compensation for work injuries, retirement, unemployment compensation, life insurance, and health

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insurance apply to Government Accountability Office employees.

[45 FR 68380, Oct. 15, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 56979, Dec. 22, 1982]

## PART 9—SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE

AUTHORITY: 31 U.S.C. 733.

## § 9.1 GAO Senior Executive Service.

(a) The Comptroller General may promulgate regulations establishing a Government Accountability Office Senior Executive Service which meets the requirements set forth in section 3131 of title 5, United States Code, which provides—

### § 3131 The GAO Senior Executive Service

The Senior Executive Service shall be administered so as to—

(1) Provide for a compensation system, including salaries, benefits, and incentives, and for other conditions of employment, designed to attract and retain highly competent senior executives;

(2) Ensure that compensation, retention, and tenure are contingent on executive success which is measured on the basis of individual and organizational performance (including such factors as improvements in efficiency, productivity, quality of work or service, cost efficiency, and timeliness of performance and success in meeting equal employment opportunity goals);

(3) Assure that senior executives are accountable and responsible for the effectiveness and productivity of employees under them;

(4) Recognize exceptional accomplishment;

(5) Enable the head of an agency to reassign senior executives to best accomplish the agency's mission;

(6) Provide for severance pay, early retirement, and placement assistance for senior executives who are removed from the Senior Executive Service for nondisciplinary reasons;

(7) Protect senior executives from arbitrary or capricious actions;

(8) Provide for program continuity in the management of GAO programs;

(9) Maintain a merit personnel system free of prohibited personnel practices;

(10) Ensure accountability for honest, economical, and efficient Government;

(11) Ensure compliance with all applicable personnel laws, rules, and regulations, including those related to equal employment opportunity, political activity, and conflicts of interest;